

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

The following abstract will replace all prior versions of the abstract in the application:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

For packaging flat objects (4) using a packaging material (7) being supplied as a quasi-endless web, a string of bags (7') being open on three sides and closed on one side is continuously formed and conveyed in a conveying direction. During conveyance the bags (7') are each charged with at least one object (4)-each, are severed from each other, and are then sealed with seams corresponding with the open bag sides. The depth of the bags during the step of forming the string of bags (7') and/or the distance between the two lateral seams during the step of sealing are adjusted to the format of the object to be packaged (4), or to the width of the packaging material (7), respectively. For being able to restrict adjustability to a forming device (7') and to a sealing device (7')~~the means for forming the bags (7') and to the means for sealing the bags (7')~~, the bags are conveyed ~~in such a way that their open side opposite the one closed side and the corresponding seam keep a position which~~~~that~~ is independent of the format of the objects to be packaged (4) at all stages of procedure, and the bags are secured in the region of this open side. ~~The method and device are in particular applicable for packaging printed products in weldable plastic foil, wherein the consumption of packaging material can be easily reduced to the necessary minimum due to the simple adjustability to the format of the objects to be packaged.~~

(Fig. 1)